Sunday
October
18

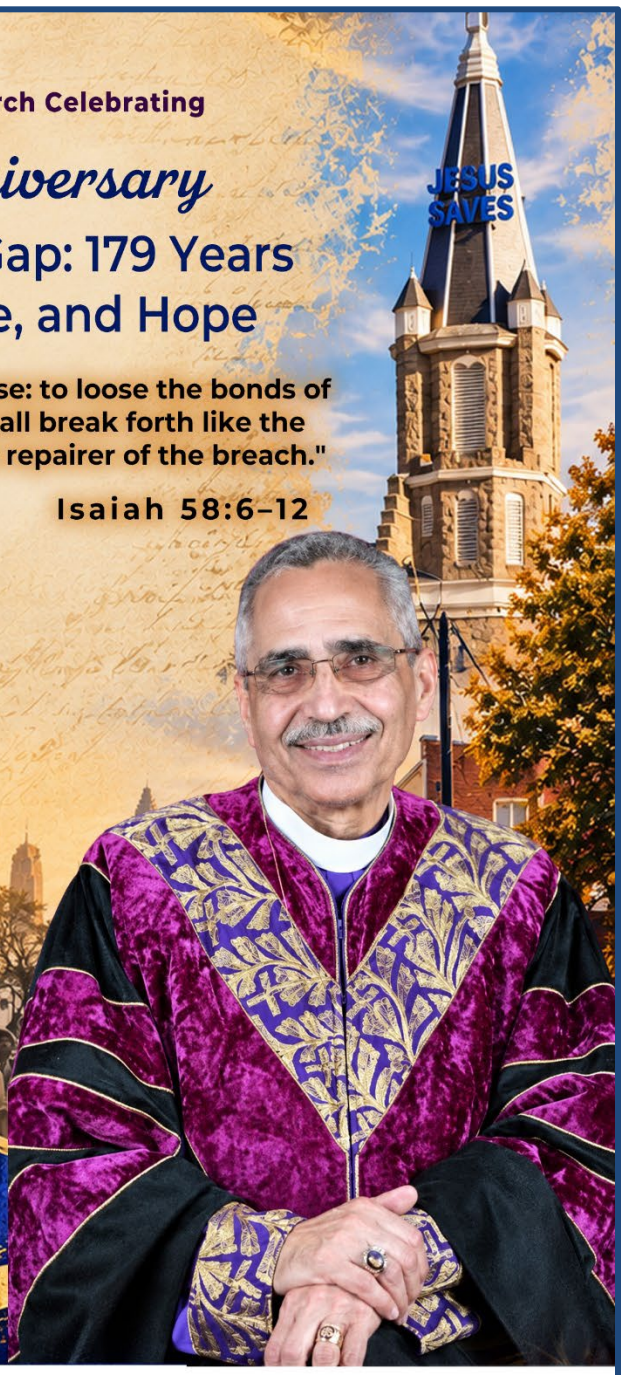
Big Bethel AME Church Celebrating

Church Anniversary

Standing in the Gap: 179 Years of Faith, Justice, and Hope

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice... Then your light shall break forth like the dawn... You shall be called the repairer of the breach."

Isaiah 58:6–12



Guest Speaker:

Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath

Presiding Prelate, 16th Episcopal District

Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Right Reverend Michael L. Mitchell, Presiding Prelate, 6th Episcopal District

Mrs. Cordelia Mitchell, Episcopal Supervisor, 6th Episcopal District

The Reverend Kimberly McMichael, Presiding Elder, North Atlanta District

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The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor

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10:00 am Traditional
2:00 pm Contemporary
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Presiding Elder, North Atlanta District
The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine
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Pastor Jay and
Leading Lady Michelle Burks Augustine

"Faith in Action"
PRAYER BREAKFAST
Faith in Action: Standing in the Gap for Justice and Community
Saturday, October 24, 2026
Big Bethel AME Church
(Bishops Hall-Entrance on Jesse Hill Drive)
10:00 am to 12:00pm
Tanya F. Miller
Georgia State Representative
Tickets $35.00
Purchase on www.bigbethelame.org
Eventbrite
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Michelle Burks Augustine, Leading Lady
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Social Justice Sunday
SOULS TO THE POLLS
October 25, 2026
Worship @10am
Caravan to Vote @ 1:30pm
Ai Fluency Initiative 1:00 PM
Bishop's Hall
(All are Welcomed)
Guest Preacher
The Reverend Al Sharpton
President, National Action Network
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Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor
Michelle Burks Augustine, Leading Lady

Big Bethel AME Church:
A Brief History of Atlanta's Oldest Congregation, 1847 to 2026

Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church traces its roots back to 1847, with a group of enslaved persons who were part of "Union Church," the very first congregation formed in Atlanta. Although Union Church, which eventually disbanded, was established for whites, the original enslaved group that was allowed to worship there remained intact. Whites eventually granted a petition for those enslaved to have their own church and set aside $700 for that purpose. In 1855, "Bethel Tabernacle" was completed. Indeed, while Big Bethel is often referred to as Atlanta's first *Black* congregation, it is more accurately recognized as Atlanta's *oldest* congregation, Black or white.

After the Civil War ended slavery, the Bethel congregation joined the connection of the AME Church, in 1865, thereby embracing a philosophy of self-help and a theology which highlights the intervention of God into the African American experience.

Notwithstanding the racist beliefs and obstacles facing Black worshipers, Bethel Tabernacle stood as a great testament to the faith and strength of our stalwart forebearers. From the Union Church, on Peachtree Street; to Bethel Tabernacle, on Jenkins Street; to Old Bethel, on Wheat Street (now Auburn Avenue); to its present site, on the corner of Auburn Avenue and Jesse Hill Drive, Big Bethel AME Church stands as a historic landmark and cornerstone of that heritage.

By the end of the Civil War, in 1865, African Methodism had reached Georgia and other southern states. Bishop Daniel Alexander Payne sent Reverend James Lynch to present a formalized structure, during the period of Reconstruction. Payne organized the AME Church in the South, and then in Atlanta, with **Brother Joseph Wood**, as a lay preacher at "Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Tabernacle." Brother Wood worked diligently, and often sacrificially, to build a strong church family. His efforts, after two years of faithful service in building Bethel Tabernacle, were applauded.

Succeeding Brother Wood to the pastorate of Bethel Tabernacle was **Reverend Wesley John Gaines**, a former slave who was a blood relative of Confederate General Robert Toombs. Gaines, who arrived in 1866, was the first ordained Black minister, as well as the first minister assigned by the AME Church to lead Bethel flock. Despite limited formal training, Gaines acquired the style and manners of the slave-holding gentry. He was a fine orator and an eloquent writer of several books. **Reverend Gaines would later become the sixteenth bishop of the AME Church**.

Reconstruction, a New Church Home on "Old Wheat Street,"
Prince Hall Freemasonry in Georgia, and the Founding of Morris Brown College

Many converts united with Bethel because of Reverend Gaines' inspirational preaching, and the membership became too large for the building. The growing congregation built a new edifice on Atlanta's "Old Wheat Street" (presently Auburn Avenue). Under Reverend Gaines' dynamic leadership, one of the largest black-owned buildings in the country was

erected in 1868. When the church was completed, the proud members marched from the Jenkins Street church to the first church built by members of Big Bethel. This brick structure was considered an outstanding achievement because it was owned and controlled by Blacks.
As was customary under the AME Church's itineracy, Reverend Gaines was moved to another pastorate and **Reverend F. Jesse Peck**, from Boston, Massachusetts, followed him. People flocked to the church to hear the eloquent preacher from New England, because of his learned talks. Church attendance increased so rapidly that a gallery was built to accommodate the worshipers.

Reverend Peck, who had become a member of the Masonic Order while in Boston, was instrumental in the establishment of **Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons** in Georga. A petition to the Grand Lodge was presented in 1870 and approval was granted to establish the **Saint James Lodge Number 4 of the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons**, in Atlanta. The lodge was established on March 5, 1871. Reverend Peck served as Worshipful Master and Brother Joseph Wood, Bethel Tabernacle's first pastor, as Senior Warden.

Between 1873 and 1880, several pastors lead Bethel, two of whom had the distinction of serving twice as pastor of this historic church. **Reverends Charles L. Bradwell**, **William D. Johnson** and **S. H. Robertson** followed Reverend Peck's tenure, each serving one year. Reverend Peck returned in 1875 for a second term as pastor and rendered dedicated service for the next two years. In 1877, **Reverend R. A. Hall** was sent to lead the flock and was succeeded, in 1880, by **Reverend Wesley J. Gaines**, who began his second appointment.

The following year, 1881, Bethel Church hosted the North Georgia Annual Conference where a resolution was presented to establish an institution of learning for the Christian education of Negroes. The school, which grew out of the desire of Black people to help themselves, was named in honor of **AME Bishop Morris Brown. The first classes at Morris Brown College were held at Bethel Church**. Reverend Gaines was succeeded by **Reverend Richard Graham** who pastored the church one year.

The Impossible Dream:
The Great Cathedral, Big Bethel AME Church

In 1885, the powerful **Reverend Joseph Simeon Flipper** was appointed to serve as Bethel's pastor. Reverend Flipper inspired the congregation to pay its honest debts, develop habits of punctuality, and to be reverent in the Lord's House. He even tried to get the officers and members to purchase the corner lot on Auburn Avenue and Butler Street, next door to the church. His vision was so far ahead of the congregation that the proposal was not accepted. **Reverend Flipper later became president of Morris Brown College before his election as a bishop in the AME Church.**

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The great builder, **Reverend Larry Thomas**, succeeded Reverend Flipper. During Reverend Thomas' tenure, the congregation observed the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of its affiliation with the AME Church. With a now-mature faith and dreams, under the direction of Reverend Thomas, the membership readily accepted the proposal to purchase the property next door (had the property been purchased earlier, when suggested by Reverend Flipper, the cost would have been one-fourth less. **Eventually a two-story church structure was erected on the corner of Auburn Avenue and Butler Street**. Reverend Thomas was followed by **Reverend R. M. Cheeks**, who labored in the vineyard for two years. By this time, the old church building was becoming known as "Old Bethel" and the new building**, "Big Bethel." Reverend W. G. Alexander** became pastor in 1895. In 1898 the church was condemned for the second time and then rebuilt. The ceiling was lowered, and the walls were made secure by erecting two long arches overhead across the church's interior. Church historians surmised that this was the period when the church's architectural identity was changed from the original Victorian design to the Romanesque Revival school. During the building lace and decorating campaign, significant events took place which would influence the church's history for future generations, including the 1898 formation of the "Big on Big Bethel" Choir, under the direction of **Millie McCree.**

The Early 1900s

The goal of completing overall construction on the mammoth church dominated the administrations of Big Bethel's pastors during the early 1900's. The entire project, which was begun in 1891, would span thirty years, finally reaching completion in 1921.

During the conference year 1899-1900, the **Reverend E. W. Lee**, who later became the fourth president of Morris Brown College, arrived as the fifteenth pastor of Bethel Church since Joseph Wood. During the period between 1900 and 1905, **Reverends C. W. Newton** and **C. C. Cargile** served as pastors. **Dr. Issac N. Ross, who would be elected the forty-first AME bishop in 1916, was assigned as pastor in 1905**. It was during his administration that the first unit or lecture room of the church was completed in 1906.

These were not easy times. In 1906, the most sensational race riot in the South brought Atlanta to a state of siege, as much of the rage flared right in the vicinity of Bethel Church, near Auburn Avenue and Courtland Streets. In 1909, **Dr. Cal M. Tanner**, brother of renowned artist, Henry Ossawa Tanner and son of AME Bishop Benjamin Tanner, accepted the church's pastorate. Reverend Doctor Tanner was one of the first black PhDs and a prudent financier. He spearheaded the then-largest rally held at Big

Bethel, raising $2,800, used for the ongoing overall construction project. Largely due to Reverend Tanner's efforts, another major construction phase was completed in 1913. It was in that same year that the **Always Faithful (A.F.) Bible Class** was organized. It remains a vital part of the Sunday School.

In 1914, Dr. Tanner was succeeded, for a very short time, by the **Reverend F.R. Sims.** His departure made way for the **Revered R. H. Singleton**. During Reverend Singleton's administration, the congregation reached its seventy-fifth year and celebrated fifty years of affiliation with the AME Church.

Tragedy and Triumph: The Early 1900s to The Great Depression

Great leaders spoke from Bethel's pulpit during the early 1900's, including **Booker T. Washington**, **United States President William Howard Taft,** and **Marcus Garvey**. When Atlanta's great fire of 1917 leveled many of the buildings in the city's old Fourth Ward, Big Bethel was spared. It became a large auditorium where Blacks could still gather. In 1919, the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** (NAACP) seated its national convention there, with **James Weldon Johnson** and **W.E.B. Dubois** in attendance. Later, in 1929, **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.** seated its national (general) convention there, with its seven founders in attendance.

Although Big Bethel was spared from the Fourth Ward fire in 1917, tragedy struck in 1923 when a fire emerged from the church's offices that destroyed the interior and roof, leaving nothing standing but the outside walls. During the time the church was being rebuilt, Pastor Singleton died, in 1923, and **Reverend J. T. Hall** finished Dr. Singleton's term.

Efforts to rebuild culminated during **Dr. J.L. Butler's** administration, during the latter part of 1924, when a lighted cross, bearing the message **"JESUS SAVES,"** was placed on the church steeple. **This symbolic cross remains a historic shrine on Auburn Avenue**. During the same period, a $8,500 three-manual Moller pipe organ was installed and marked by appropriate ceremony.

From 1924 through 1932, the church's doors were kept open by the diligent work of the following pastors: **Reverends J. L. Butler, C. J. Wiley**, and **B. G. Dawson**. Under the pastorate of Reverend Dawson, who came to Big Bethel in 1930, the religious drama, ***Heaven Bound***, was written and produced by two ladies from Choir Number One, Lula Byrd Jones and Nellie Lindley Davis. Originally conceived as a fundraising project, *Heaven Bound* was reviewed and applauded by major magazines such as *Theater Guild* and *Time*, after its February 17, 1930, premiere. Now, in its 95th year and with millions of tickets previously sold, the annual showing of *Heaven Bound* is a staple in Atlanta's culture.

The Great Depression

At the dawn of the Great Depression, Big Bethel, the flagship AME Church in Georgia, continued to be a beacon on Auburn Avenue. The great educator, **Mary McLeod Bethune**, spoke from the pulpit of Big Bethel, in 1937. The good preaching, the fine music rendered by the choirs, and the impact of influential members, all contributed to a full and colorful congregation. Among the prominent members and officers were **Professor C. L. Harper**, the first principal of **Atlanta's Booker T. Washington High School**; **Professor J. L. Wheeler**, an executive at North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company; and **Bro. Cornelius King**, Atlanta's first black realtor.

Reverend Dewitt Talmadge Babcock came to Big Bethel in 1934. Facing the financial strain of the mortgage taken out in 1924 to rebuild the church, and the harshness of the Great Depression, Babcock adopted as his slogan "It Can Be Done." His administration (1934-1948), the longest in Big Bethel's history, was one of expansion and growth. It was then that a group from Choir Number One appeared at the **Little White House, in Warm Springs, Georgia**, for **President Franklin Roosevelt.** Continued demand for *Heaven Bound* resulted in its presentation under the auspices of the **Works Progress Administration** (WPA), at the Atlanta Federal Theater in 1937, as capacity crowds held the play over for an entire week. Further, on **December 15, 1939, Choir Number Two performed at the world premiere of the movie *Gone with the Wind*, based on Margaret Mitchell's book** of the same name**.**

Dr. Dwight V. Kyle, who succeeded Reverend Babcock, was transferred from the 13th Episcopal District (Tennessee) by **Bishop Richard Wright**. Among the accomplishments of his three-year tenure were the remodeling and refurbishing of the Auburn Avenue parsonage, reorganization of the Missionary Department, revitalization of the Young People's Department (YPD), and organization of the first Cherub choir under the leadership of Julia Brown. **Reverend Kyle also set in motion plans to purchase the Butler Street property where now stands the residential housing structure called Bethel Towers.**

The 1950s and 60s:
Bishop Harold I. Bearden and Reverend Reuben T. Bussey

In the midst of accelerated social and community change came **Reverend Harold Irvin Bearden** to the pastorate of Big Bethel in 1951. He joined other local clergy in providing leadership during the Civil Rights Movement and often took part in protest marches and "sit-ins" at segregated lunch counters. His provocative sermons captured a wide radio following through the weekly broadcast on the Black-owned Radio Station, WERD. His interest in institutionalizing *Heaven Bound* also attracted a feature writer from *Life* magazine to cover the 1953 annual production.

A Brief History (continued)

In the 1950s and 60s, Auburn Avenue retained its magic as a national Black Mecca where fervent Black churches, bustling Black commerce, and Black social life combined to form a unique and most picturesque subculture. **Big Bethel, the oldest institution on the thoroughfare, was looked at as everybody's church**. Indeed, **Bishop William Alfred Fountain** was funeralized at a packed Big Bethel, in 1955, as was **John Wesley Dobbs (the Grand Master of the Prince Hall Masons**, co-founder of the powerful **Atlanta Civic and Political League**, and a member of neighboring **First Congregational Church)**, in 1961.

The Young People's Department (YPD), under the leadership of Sister Julia Brown, remained a vital organization during Reverend Bearden's administration. The Junior Church was reorganized, and the H.D. Massey Junior Missionary Society was formed in 1953. The Youth Guild, a phase of the YPD, was organized to provide opportunities for youth who were not members of other youth groups. **Brother Jesse Hill, Jr.,** of the **Atlanta Life Insurance Company**, and one of the few Black actuaries in the country, at that time, was appointed Sunday School superintendent by Reverend Bearden. Because of the Korean Conflict, however, his tenure was cut short when he was called into the armed services.

In 1955, during the Bearden administration, Big Bethel's parsonage, located on Auburn Avenue near Martin Luther King, Jr.'s final resting place, was sold to the Ebenezer Baptist Church. Ebenezer needed more land for expansion. The funds received from this transaction were used to purchase another parsonage for Big Bethel on nearby Wabash Avenue. The Bearden administration was also responsible for redecorating the church and for installing pews to replace the theater-type seats used for many years. Much help for the renovation came from Atlanta's wealthy white families. **The Rich family, of Rich's Department Store**, gave carpet for the sanctuary. **The Candlers, former owners of the Coca-Cola Company,** gave the hardwood flooring. Furniture was also purchased for the office, kitchen and lounge. Over 575 members united with the church..

In May 1964, Reverend Bearden was elected as the eighty-third Bishop of the AME Church. Three former Big Bethel pastors had become bishops: Wesley J. Gaines, Joseph Simeon Flipper, and I. N. Ross. Bishop Bearden, however, was the first pastor elevated to the bishopric directly from the pastorate of Big Bethel.

Succeeding Reverend Bearden was **Reverend Reuben T. Bussey**, who was appointed to serve Big Bethel in 1964, by **Bishop Ernest L. Hickman**. Early in Reverend Bussey's administration, the Sunday School—under the leadership of **Brothers Jesse Hill** and **Charles W. Moore**—initiated plans for self-evaluation and revitalization. One innovation was the appointment of quarterly superintendents, which provided an opportunity for young adults with leadership potential to render greater service.

A Brief History (continued)

Among those serving as quarterly superintendents were **Lowery Wright, Nellie W. Adams, Lucile Neely, Wesley Jackson. Sr., JoAnn Vickers, Fisher Kimble, Oliver Powell, and Azira Hill**.

In 1967, the congregation's official name, "Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Tabernacle," was changed to "Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church." Further, in 1970, **Governor Jimmy Carter (later U.S. president)** addressed the congregation. During these times, integration brought about changes in the city's political and business landscapes. **John H. Calhoun, a Big Bethel trustee, became the second Black to sit on the Atlanta City Council and Jesse Hill, former superintendent of Big Bethel's Sunday School, became the first Black president of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce**.

The 1970s

In 1968, Reverend Bussey negotiated with the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** (H.U.D.) to erect Bethel Towers for low-income tenants. Reverend Bussey utilized the services of Bethel member and well-known architect, **Joseph W. Robinson, Sr**. for the project.

Before the end of Reverend Bussey's tenure, efforts were made not only to strengthen fellowship and beautify the church, but to engage in an outreach program to help senior citizens. Big Bethel became one of the sponsors for, as well as the site of, the **Senior Citizens Nutrition Program of Metro Atlanta**. In 1976, Big Bethel was also added to the coveted **National Register of** Historic Places.

Bringing closure to the decade of the 70's, two dedicated, experienced pastors were appointed to serve Big Bethel. In 1977, **Reverend L. J. Jones** succeeded Reverend Bussey. During his two-year tenure (1977-1979), the Mass Choir was organized, and the placing of fresh flowers on the altar began. **The Reverend Dr. D.C. Grant**, who succeeded Reverend Jones in 1979, had a short tenure of one year. He implemented plans for replacing the roof of the church at a cost of $88,000. He also revived the Sunday evening worship service.

The 1980s and Bishop McKinley Young

Reverend Dr. McKinley Young, a native son of the church, became Big Bethel's new pastor in 1980, after **Bishop Frederick Talbot's** appointment. As Reverend Young replenished the membership with young parishioners, he also envisioned a sweeping redefinition of the church's mission and realignment of its projects and organizations. To assist, Reverend Young appointed **Reverend Mary Bellinger** as Big Bethel's first female associate minister.

At the outset, **Reverend Young's** ministry was focused on social issues. His participation in ecumenical and community programs kept Big Bethel in the forefront

of social action during his administration. He **served as president of the Concerned Black Clergy, Inc. and the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta**. His membership on the **Mayor's Civilian Review Board** and his involvement with the **Congress of National Black Churches** kept the spotlight on Big Bethel. He also established the **Richard Allen Outreach Center** and the following programs: the **Food Pantry and Clothing Bank,** for the needy; **The Welcome Table**, to serve meals to the hungry and homeless; the **Drug Information and Referral Service Hotline**; and **Cooperative Pastoral Counseling Services**, a cooperative effort with Ebenezer Baptist Church. An **Alcoholics Anonymous** unit was based at Big Bethel and the Young Administration also sponsored a prison ministry, beginning with the **Women's Prison Project**, and later, the **Men's Prison Ministry**.

During Reverend Young's tenure, one of the most profound changes at Big Bethel came through the music ministries. In 1983, Choir Number One and Choir Number Two merged, renaming them **"The Cathedral Choir."** The old Babcock Gospel Chorus was merged into the newly organized **D.T. Babcock Voices of Inspiration**. The Community Choir was organized to serve at the early morning (8:00 a.m.) worship services. It was composed of members of the congregation, the community, and students from Morris Brown College. **Subsequently, reorganized and renamed the McKinley Young Community Choir, this group became known simply as the McKinley Young Choir.**

A major project of renovation and restoration was also undertaken in 1983. The interior walls, floors, pews, and pulpit furnishings were restored. The neon cross and "Jesus Saves" sign on the steeple were repaired and relighted. The crowning glory of the renovation was the complete restoration of the three-manual Moller Pipe Organ, at a cost of $101,000, in 1987.

In 1985, the *New York Times*, lauded *Heaven Bound* in a five-column article, as "one of Atlanta's most enduring traditions." **Sister Joann Bearden Vickers** and **Gregory Coleman, Esq.**, succeeded **Henry J. Furlow** as directors of the play. **Dr. Wendall Phillip Whalum**, of Morehouse College, came for several years as guest chorister, and **Dr. Gloria Tinubu**, of Spelman College, served as guest director.

In 1987, **Project Spirit**, a tutorial and enrichment program sponsored by the Congress of National Black Churches to help the youth in the community, became another innovation at Big Bethel. Big Bethel also participated in the **Grady Homes Cluster of Churches and Organizations** which served low-income areas by sponsoring safe summer programs for children and supporting and developing community improvement programs. **The H.I. Bearden Youth Choir** was revived, and, in 1989, the Children's Choir was renamed the **Emma Scott Children's Choir**. **Alicia Oden** became the new Sunday School superintendent, following the retirement of **Earlie A. Smith**. **Amos McCrary** was named co-superintendent.

A Brief History (continued)

The 1990s to 2004: Tradition, Black Pride, and Social Progress

By 1990 Reverend Young had given a decade service to Big Bethel. He continued to expand the church's ministries by organizing the **Singles Ministry** in 1991, under the leadership of **Sister Monica Jones**, and reinstating **Junior Church** in 1992. His outreach and travels had won for him identity and recognition by world leaders. It was no small wonder that **Nelson Mandela** of South Africa, **spoke from Big Bethel's pulpit on his visit to Atlanta on June 26, 1990, followed by presidential candidate Bill Clinton (later U.S. president), in 1992**. **On July 14, 1992, Reverend Young was elected the AME Church's 109th bishop.**

Reverend Dr. James L. Davis was appointed as Big Bethel's pastor, by **Bishop Donald George Kenneth Ming**, in 1992. He led the congregation in the establishment of new and innovative ministries that were a catalyst for revitalizing "Sweet Auburn" and other communities. Some positive outgrowths include: the **Trinity-Bethel Partnership**, **Big Bethel Senior Village**, acquiring the **parking lot** and **Renaissance Walk**. His leadership initiated the changing of the landscape of Auburn Avenue through church renovations ($1.3 million dollars), property acquisition and development, with support of the **Boards of Trustees and Stewards** (led by **Brothers Floyd Baxter** and **Stanley Pritchett**, respectively), the **Commission on Stewardship and Finance**, and church conferences). Projects were initiated for the interior and exterior renovation of the church, including installation of an elevator and upgrades to the kitchen, and the purchase of surrounding and auxiliary property. Some accomplishments included the **development of new administrative offices**, establishment of the **Big Bethel Federal Credit Union and an endowment fund**, property purchases for the development of **Renaissance Walk**, the **Big Bethel Senior Village**, **computer room at Bethel Towers**, **parking lot**, **Youth Retreat Station**, and community **amphitheater** on Auburn Avenue.

The Davis Administration also initiated several special services that included **"Come On Home For Christmas" (Dr. Jackie Michael)**, the **Palm Sunday Parade** and **Palm Sunday Concert**, **Richard Allen Outreach Recitals** (events for financial support), **Philippians**, **Signing Ministry (Dr. Monica Jones)**, **Kwanza Sol Dance Ministry**, **Signs of Praise Mime Ministry**, revitalization of the **Bell Choir**, **Johnson-Schofield Male Chorus**, and the **Men of Big Bethel (MOBB) Annual Golf Tournament** to raise money for scholarships (**Michael Brown and Dr. Price Michael**).

Reverend Davis was elected and consecrated as the 123rd bishop of the AME Church, in 2004, the second consecutive pastor elected to the bishopric directly from the Big Bethel's pulpit.

A Brief History (continued)

The Early 2000s to 2013

Reverend Mark Thompson was appointed to Big Bethel's pastorate, in 2004, by **Bishop William Philips DeVeaux**. Several highlights of his administration were establishment of the **Big Bethel Saturday Academy**, **Seed and Proceed**, the **History and Heritage Ministry**, **Computer Lab restoration**, establishment of the **Babcock-Young Voices of Unity choir**, the **Bearden-Scott Youth Choir** (**Reverend Maurice Wright**) and the **Katrina Relief project**.

Reverend Dr. Gregory V. Eason (later elected as the AME Church's 148th bishop, while serving at Flipper Temple AME Church) was appointed to lead Big Bethel, in December 2005, by **Bishop William Philips DeVeaux**. During the Eason Administration, while adopting the mantra of "Radical Hospitality," several successes occurred. **FOCUS** (Faithfully Obeying Christ with Unwavering Stewardship) was launched to raise funds for the church to retire the debt incurred from the parking lot repurchase. **Renaissance Walk** was completed, and the original mortgage burning ceremony for Bethel Towers occurred. Additionally, Big Bethel's steward pro temp, **Dr. Stanley J. Pritchett**, **served as president of Morris Brown College from 2006-2018**. The MOBB also established "A Taste of Big Bethel."

The Reverend Dr. John Foster: 2013-2025

In May 2013, **Reverend John Foster, Ph.D.,** was appointed to serve Big Bethel, by **Bishop Preston Warren Williams II**. The Big Bethel 2020 Vision was adopted as the masterplan for church ministries. It grew into the **Vision for Big Bethel 2027,** to be the preeminent religious presence in the Auburn/Edgewood Corridor of Atlanta.

Several significant events occurred during Dr. Foster's twelve-year tenue. They include: ownership of Bethel Towers being officially transferred to the Bethel Towers, Inc. Board; the mortgage for this $3.5 million dollar building being burned, along with the 1st Phase completion of Bethel Towers total $32 million dollars renovation—the largest single project in Big Bethel's history—a venture that allowed Big Bethel to burn the mortgage on its sanctuary, fellowship hall and parking lot. The original church mortgage of $4.8 million, in 2013, was reduced to $1.1 million, in 2019. Big Bethel members instrumental to the project include **Brothers Charles Moore, Tim Crim, and Bill Sisk**.

Under Dr. Foster's leadership, and in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Big Bethel became a community center for vaccinations and testing. In partnership with local medical agencies, Big Bethel provided monthly vaccinations (**Brother Stanley Pritchett** and **Reverend Charmain Purvis**) for the entire 4th Ward Community. Over 2,000 vaccines and tests were administered.

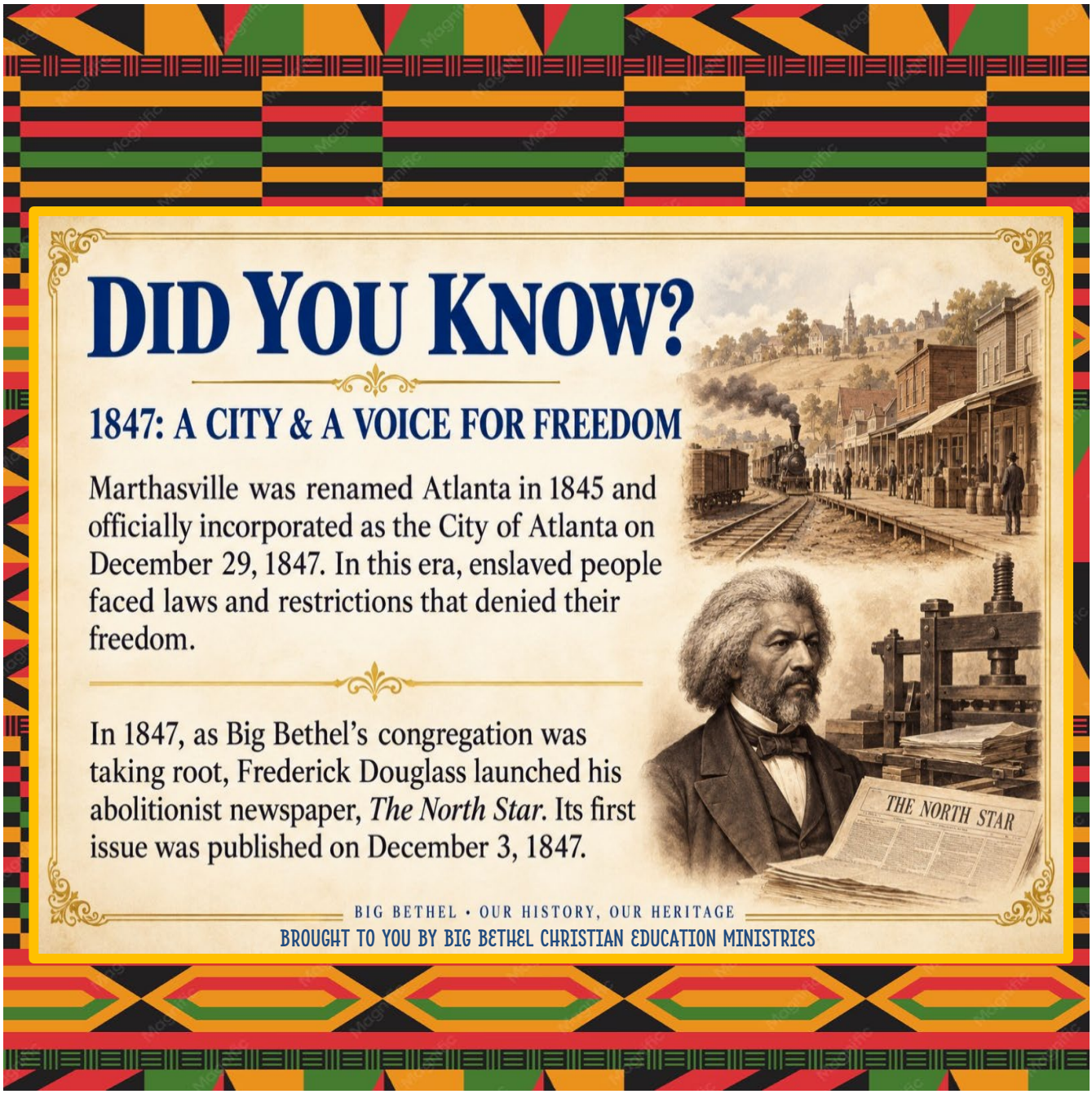
A Brief History (continued)

During Pastor Foster's tenure, Big Bethel's Young Adult Ministry evolved to become the THRIVE Ministry, with a 4-prong outreach: (1) weekly millennial worship services, at 2 pm; (2) weekly Bible studies; (3) a monthly service Sunday, where members leave service and go out into the community; and (4) a monthly social activity, to attract and retain college attendees. Other innovative ministries, during the Foster Administration, included the Social Action Ministry, the Monday-Saturday 6:00 -AM Prayer Line, the Women's Emphasis Month and Women's Bible Study Ministry, as well as the modernization of various giving platforms, the Big Bethel Chorale, and the revitalization of Emily's Haven. Dr. Foster was a candidate for bishop in 2021. He retired from Big Bethel's pulpit in May 2025.

A New Era:
The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine

In May 2025, after Dr. Foster's retirement, **Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell** appointed **Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine** ("Pastor Jay"), vice president of the AME Church's Judicial Council, as Big Bethel's servant leader. Pastor Jay transferred into the Sixth Episcopal District from the Second District, where he was leading St. Joseph AME Church (Durham, NC). Since his appointment, Pastor Jay is leading a church rebranding and revitalization that has addressed deferred maintenance, the renovation of Big Bethel's former credit union, as a community resource center, and renovation of the former fellowship hall as "Bishops Hall." Weekly attendance has dramatically increased, children's church has been reinstituted, along with Youth Sundays, new ministries have been birthed, and Big Bethel has a renewed focus on social justice. Under Pastor Jay's leadership, Big Bethel is once again garnering local and national news headlines as a church that is committed to fighting injustices and being a place of welcome for all, as the **"City Hall of Sweet Auburn." Special guest speakers have included civil rights icons Marc H. Morial,** the longest serving president of the National Urban League; **Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis**, former national president of the NAACP and organizer of the Million-Man March; **and Bishop William J. Barber**, president of Repairers of the Breach.

In Big Bethel's 179-year history, thirty-seven ministers have served as pastor and sainted spiritual leaders. **Three pastors, the Reverends Harold I. Bearden (1964), McKinley Young (1992), and James L. Davis (2004) were elected from Big Bethel's pulpit and consecrated as bishops in the African Methodist Episcopal Church**. Additionally, four other pastors were elected and consecrated as AME Church bishops, but not while serving at Big Bethel: **The Reverends Wesley J. Gaines, Joseph S. Flipper, Isaac N. Ross, and Gregory V. Eason.**



The Right Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath

128th Elected and Consecrated Bishop
Presiding Prelate, 16th Episcopal District
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rt. Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath was consecrated the 128th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 2008. The 52nd General Conference (August 2024) assigned him to serve the Sixteenth Episcopal District with work in the Caribbean, Brazil, and Europe.

Bishop Leath is a child of the parsonage. He was born in Huntington, New York and has lived in Norwalk, Connecticut and Inwood, New York as his father served in those places. He is a graduate of Yale College, Yale Divinity School (Master of Divinity) and United Theological Seminary (Dayton, Ohio) – Doctor of Ministry. His doctoral dissertation focused on the Class Leader system in the A.M.E. Church.

Bishop Leath served churches in New York; Rhode Island; Norristown, Pennsylvania and Wilmington, Delaware. His final pastoral charge was at Mother Bethel Church where he served for fifteen years as the 51st pastor. Before his assignment to the Sixteenth Episcopal District, Bishop Leath served the Office of Ecumenical & Urban Affairs (and Chaplain Endorser), the Thirteenth Episcopal District (Kentucky and Tennessee), and the Nineteenth Episcopal District (Republic of South Africa).

Bishop Leath is the husband of Susan J. Leath, M.D., the Leaths have three children: (the Rev. Dr.) Jennifer, Victoria, and Jeffrey, II; and three grandchildren.

Bishop Leath is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and he is a 33rd Degree Prince Hall Mason.

Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
179th Anniversary Worship Service
Sunday, October 18, 2026, 10:00 AM
Standing in the Gap: 179 Years of Faith, Justice, and Hope Isaiah 58:6–12
The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine,
Presiding Liturgist/Worship Leader

The Order of Liturgy

Worship in Music.....The Big Bethel Mass Choir
Brother Cornelius Pettway, Director

The Doxology.....AME Hymn #69.....All Worshipers (standing)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Call to Worship.....The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C.. Augustine,
Senior Pastor, Big Bethel AME Church

Minister: I was glad when they said unto to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!"
Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

People: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Minister: For the sake of the house of the Lord Our God; I will seek your good**.**

People: They are planted in the house of the Lord, they flourish in the courts of our God.

Minister: O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells.

People: For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer

ALL: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! I will sing of loyalty and of Justice. to you, O Lord, I will sing.

The Opening Hymn.....AME Hymn #52 Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah.....Sister Brittany Stinson

The Prayer of Invocation…….....….....The Reverend Charmain R. Purvis
(Prayer chant)

Worship in Music.....The Big Bethel Mass Choir
Brother Pettway, Director

The Responsive Scripture Reading.....Isaiah 58:6–12, NRSVUE.....The Reverend Monica C. Jones, Ph.D.

Leader: 6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

People: 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Leader: 8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard

People: 9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am." If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of finger, the speaking of evil,

Leader: 10 if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

People: 11 The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched place and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

ALL: 12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Worship in Music.....The Big Bethel Mass Choir
Brother Pettway, Director

The Preface to the Decalogue…….....…….AME Hymn #258
From all that dwells below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise
Let the Redeemer's name be sung, through every land by every tongue.

The Summary of the Decalogue.....Dr. Susan Wright
Hear what Christ our Saviour saith, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

The Gloria Patri…….AME Hymn #627
Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Litany.....Sister LaDonna Edwards
Written by Sister Martinique Mix and Brother Sam Stephens

Leader: Faithful God, for 179 years, You have sustained Big Bethel and guided generations in faith.

People: We give You thanks for our heritage and commit ourselves to Your work.

Leader: You call us to break the bonds of injustice, feed the hungry, and care for those in need.

People: Open our hearts, strengthen our hands, and give us courage to stand in the gap.

Leader: You call us to repair the breach, restore our communities, and let our light shine.

People: Make us instruments of healing, bearers of hope, and witnesses to Your love.

Leader: As we celebrate our past and embrace our future, renew our commitment to faithful service.

All: We will stand in the gap—proclaiming God's Word and pursuing God's justice. Guide us in faith, unite us in love, and send us forth in hope. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Project 2026…….....Sister Andrea Young Jones

The Big Bethel Ministry Moment.....Worship & Arts Ministry

The Announcements and Welcome to Big Bethel.....Sister Stephanie S. Shepherd
(Everybody, Hug Somebody)

A Word from the Board of Stewards.....Sister Shirley Simmons & Dr. Chris Parker

Worship Through Creative Expression.....Signs of Praise Mime Ministry
Brother Jory Young, Director

The Pastor's Perspective.....Pastor Jay Augustine

Christian Stewardship Worship in Giving.....Dr. Opal Knowlton

The Choral Response.....**All Things Come of Thee**.....AME Hymn #644

"All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee." Amen

The Presentation of the Guest Preacher.....Pastor Jay Augustine

Worship in Music….....The Big Bethel Mass Choir
Brother Pettway, Director

The Proclaimed Word..... The Right Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath
128th Elected and Consecrated Bishop
Presiding Prelate, 16th Episcopal District
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Invitation & Prayer.....Pastor Jay

Remarks and Recognition.....Sister Martinique Mix & Brother Sam Stephens
Anniversary Committee Chairs

The Doxology……AME Hymn #69……....…...All Worshipers (standing)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Benediction…….....……..……..…….....Bishop Leath

Visitors, please register your attendance on the Big Bethel Guest Registration Form by scanning the QR code to the right. Thank you for worshipping with us. You are always welcome!!!!

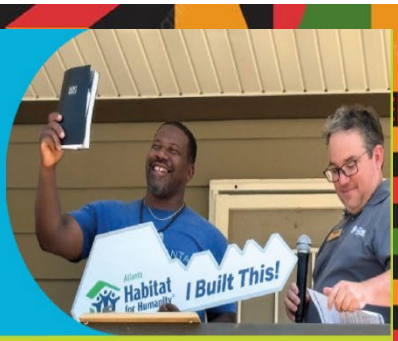
VISITOR REGISTRATION

~Sermon Notes~

"...you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church..." Matthew 16:18

Points/Topics:

Volunteer on the Atlanta Habitat Faith Build



Join volunteers from the Big Bethel AME community and other local congregations in service and fellowship.

Saturdays
7:30am-3:30pm
October 31
November 14
December 5

Sign up Today

https://vhub.at/bigbethel

Scan the QR Code on the right or use the link above to create a profile on VolunteerHub, sign a waiver, and choose the day(s) you want to volunteer on site.

Auburn Avenue SOULS TO THE POLLS CARAVAN

Our Faith. Our Voice. Our Vote.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
Caravan leaves at **1:30 pm** from Big Bethel
Cars and vans welcome
A bus will depart from **Ebenezer at 1 pm**

ORGANIZED BY BIG BETHEL
220 Auburn Ave NE,
Atlanta, GA 30303

DESTINATION
Joan P. Garner at Ponce de Leon Library
980 Ponce de Leon Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30306

Be informed. Be prepared. Vote.

BIG BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

GEORGIA VOTERS

Find Your Voter Status and Sample Ballot

Your Vote Matters.

Your sample ballot shows you the candidates and issues that will be on your ballot. Checking your voter status helps you make informed decisions before you vote.

1 OPEN YOUR PHONE CAMERA
Point your camera at the QR code (on the right).

2 TAP THE LINK
A link will appear. Tap it to go to the Georgia My Voter Page (MVP) at **mvp.sos.ga.gov.**

3 ENTER YOUR INFORMATION
Enter your first initial, last name, county, and date of birth.

4 VIEW YOUR VOTER STATUS AND SAMPLE BALLOT
Check your registration status, view your sample ballot, find your polling place, and more.

SCAN HERE

to go to Georgia's My Voter Page (MVP)

mvp.sos.ga.gov

ON MVP, YOU CAN:

- Check your voter registration status
- View your sample ballot
- Find your polling place
- See upcoming election dates and deadlines

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up."
Galatians 6:9 (NRSV)

FAITH
PEOPLE
COMMUNITY
JUSTICE
ACTION

PROJECT 2026

PEOPLE ★ PURPOSE ★ PROGRESS

VOTE EARLY

Saturday Early Voting Days – October 17, and October 24

Early Voting ends October 30, 2026

Tuesday, November 3, 2026, is Election Day

16 DAYS TO ELECTION DAY

INFORM
EDUCATE
ENGAGE
EMPOWER
VOTE

THIS IS THE MOST CONSEQUENTIAL ELECTION OF OUR TIME

Same People. Brighter Tomorrow.

BEFORE YOU USE YOUR VOTING SUPERPOWER:

As previously discussed, CONTINUE to go to **www.mvp.sos.ga.gov** to:

1. Check your voting status.
2. Find your voting precinct and voter ID card.
3. Print out a Sample Ballot to see all elections in your area.
4. Then – **VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**

ARE YOU READY FOR EARLY VOTING AND TO VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER 3rd ELECTION?

- Do you have your plan for transportation to the polls ready for early voting?
- Are you ready to help your neighbor, family member or friend get to the poll?

IT'S TIME TO HELP PEOPLE GET TO THE POLLS.

Big Bethel Project 2026 and the Social Action Committee are providing rides to the polls on the following date:

Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. during Early Voting

Three vans will take a total of 45 persons to the poll and will be a part of Souls to the Polls Caravan. The vans are available for people who need transportation to the poll; who don't have a car.

If you are a Georgia voter in need of a ride to the polls on another date, **HELP IS AVAILABLE.**

Call **1-877-524-8683** Or visit **RIDETOTHEPOLL.COM**

PROJECT 2026 VOTER'S GUIDE — KNOW. RESEARCH. BE INFORMED. VOTE.

PLEASE pick up your copy of the Voter's Guide which is located in the back of the sanctuary or use the QR Code that is in today's bulletin to download your copy of this helpful guide.

SCAN ME VOTER'S GUIDE

Are you familiar with the Candidate and the duties required of the officeholder?

A few of the local positions are –

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

U.S. representatives (members of the U.S. House of Representatives) create federal laws, represent the specific people in their congressional district, and oversee federal agencies. Congressional districts are allocated to each state on a basis of population as measured by the U.S. Census, with each district having one representative. They introduce bills, propose amendments, and vote on legislation alongside the U.S. Senate. Representatives draft and propose all tax and spending (appropriations) bills, as required by the U.S. Constitution; hold the sole power to impeach federal officers, including the president and federal judges; choose the president if no candidate wins a majority of votes in the Electoral College. Representatives voice the local needs of the residents in their districts and provide constituent services to resolve issues with federal agencies. All Representatives stand for election every two years in even-numbered years. The Speaker of the House is the leader of the U.S. House, the top official in the majority party, and second in the line of presidential succession (after the Vice President). Qualifications: at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least 7 years, and a resident of the state they represent.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The President of the United States serves as the head of state, head of government, and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, with the primary constitutional duty to enforce federal laws. Oversees the executive branch and federal agencies to ensure Congress' laws are carried out. Leads the U.S. military and makes critical defense and national security decisions. Negotiates treaties with other nations (which require Senate approval), recognizes countries, and receives foreign ambassadors. Sign bills into law or veto bills passed by Congress. Nominate federal judges (including Supreme Court justices), cabinet secretaries, and ambassadors, subject to Senate confirmation. Qualifications: at least 35 years old and a natural-born citizen.

You can help your family, neighbor or friend by taking 5x5 Challenge –

Contact 5 of your friends and ask them, **ARE YOU VOTER READY?** If the answer is no, let them know how to start the process of being voter ready. Ask those 5 friends to each contact 5 friends to help get them **VOTER READY.** Stay in touch with them to assist with any concerns or issues that may arise as they become **VOTER READY.**

★ A KNOWLEDGEABLE VOTER IS AN INFORMED VOTER ★

Stay current through researching and reading articles online regarding voting, voting rights, case law and other significant news releases.

Our Faith. Our Vote. Our Future.

PEOPLE TO THE POLLS

VOTE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

FAITH
PEOPLE
POWER
PROGRESS

FOLLOW US!

@BigBethelAMEChurch

Big Bethel AME Church
220 Auburn Avenue, NE, Atlanta, GA 30303
www.bigbethelame.org

Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine
Senior Pastor

Michelle Burks Augustine
Leading Lady

BIG BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Tuesday, October 20, 2026
6:30 PM

Election of Trustees

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/96380508818?pwd=24N9jIVDWbE2QwynOKe0FsPETPDebW.1

Meeting ID: **963 8050 8818** | Passcode: **220**

One tap mobile
+16465588656,,,96380508818#,,,,,*220# US (New York)
+16469313860,,,96380508818#,,,,,*220# US

TRUSTEE NOMINEES

1 Baxter, Floyd
2 Burnett, Keith
3 Dye, Reginald
4 Eason Jr., Gregory V.
5 Eason, Kim D.
6 Halford, Keith
7 Hudson, Oliver
8 Jolly, Linda
9 Jones, Jackie
10 Mayes, Cyril
12 Pritchett, Dr. Sharon
11 Patterson, Joseph E.
13 Ragsdale, Tracey
14 Rouse, JaKeilla
15 Rudd, James
16 Underwood, Rachel Y.
17 Walters, Khamisi
18 Webster, Shelley
19 Williams, Linda
20 Wright, Howard
21 Young, Joshua

Big Bethel AME Church
PRESENTS
Do Everyday
ACTIONS
Determine Your
Hereafter?
JESUS SAVES
BIG BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH
EST. 1847 ATLANTA
You don't want to miss
The 96th Production
Heaven Bound
TRADITIONAL VERSION
Friday
NOVEMBER 6TH
7:00 PM
CONTEMPORARY VERSION
Saturday
NOVEMBER 7TH
7:00 PM
Experiencing it might help you decide
Ticket pricing:
$20 per person
Groups of 10 or more: $15
12 and Under: $15
GET YOUR TICKETS
In person: Big Bethel AME Church Office
204 Auburn Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA 30303
Online: www.bigbethelame.org
Eventbrite
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Millions to help.
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Questions? Call 404-827-9707, ext. 109
@BigBethelAMEChurch
Big Bethel AME Church
220 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.bigbethelame.org
Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine
Senior Pastor
Michelle Burks Augustine
Leading Lady

BIG BETHEL A.M.E *CHURCH*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

FALL FESTIVAL

FOOD | GAMES | FELLOWSHIP

OCTOBER 31, 2026 AT 1 PM

FREE ENTRY

Located in the Big Bethel Amphitheater
190 Auburn Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30303
Dr. Jay Augustine, Senior Pastor

ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL
INVOCATION SPEAKERS
Reverend Jessica Buford
Young Adult Pastor,
Big Bethel Thrive
October 5, 2026, 1:00PM
Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine
Senior Pastor,
Big Bethel AME Church
October 19, 2026, 1:00PM
Let's support Pastor Jay and Reverend Buford as they lead Invocation for the October Full Council Meetings.
LIVE ATLCHANNEL26
Atlanta City Hall
55 Trinity Ave. SW, Atlanta, GA 30303

BIG BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH
Thrive
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
THRIVE
YOUNG ADULT &
COLLEGE MINISTRY
Growing in Faith.
Living on Purpose.
Making an Impact.
A PLACE TO
BELONG.
A FAITH TO
BECOME.
A PURPOSE TO
FULFILL.
OUR 4 PILLARS
FELLOWSHIP
Building meaningful connections.
WORSHIP
Exalting God in spirit & truth.
TRANSFORMATION
Renewing minds. Changing lives.
SERVICE
Making a difference in our community.
JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY
2:00PM
(EXCEPT 5TH SUNDAY)
IN-PERSON
& LIVE ON
@BIGBETHELAMECHURCH
@BIGBETHELTHRIVES
BIG BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH
220 AUBURN AVE. NE
ATLANTA, GA 30303
All Are
WELCOME!
CONNECT. GROW. THRIVE. You Belong Here!

BIG BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH
JESUS SAVES
EST. 1847 ATLANTA
ATTENTION Big Bethel Members
Are you missing out on church news & event info?
Perhaps your contact information needs to be updated! Scan the code below or go to the website.
Member Contact Update
www.bigbethelame.org/member services
Be in the know!!

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
October 18, 2026	Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99	Isaiah 45:1-7 Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22

SERVING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Acolytes/ Stewards		**Altar Servers:**	Dr. Chris Parker and Brother Tim Crim
Choir	The Big Bethel Mass Choir~ Brother Cornelius Pettway	**Trustees**	Brother Floyd Baxter & Brother Keith Halford
Philippians	Sister Stephanie S. Shepherd	**Ushers**	Samuel H. Giles Usher Ministry
Stewardesses	*Bussey-Watson Stewardess Ministry* Sisters Jacqueline Eppes & Daphne Stowe	**AV Ministry**	Sister Phyllislorena Smiley & Brother Brandon Collins

Finance Team | Sisters Linda Williams, Juanita Aiken & Olivia Alston;
Brothers Tony Jones, & Joe Patterson

BIG BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishop Michael L. Mitchell, Presiding Prelate, 6th Episcopal District
Mrs. Cordelia Mitchell, Episcopal Supervisor, 6th Episcopal District
The Reverend Kimberly McMichael, Presiding Elder, North Atlanta District
The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor
The Reverend Dr. Garland D. Higgins, Executive Pastor
The Reverend Monica C. Jones Ph.D., Director of Christian Education & Chaplain for Big Bethel Village
The Reverend Jessica N. Buford, Thrive College & Young Adult Ministry Director

Itinerant Elders

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine
The Reverend Shrala Askins
The Reverend Jessica N. Buford
The Reverend Dr. Garland D. Higgins
The Reverend Monica C. Jones, Ph.D.
The Reverend Jeffrey L. Streator, Ph.D.

Itinerant Deacon

The Reverend Maurice P. Eckstein

Superannuates

The Reverend George Davis
The Reverend Bessie Donaldson
The Reverend Joyce C. Young

Local Elders

The Reverend Betty Miley
The Reverend Evelyn Jones
The Reverend Charmain Purvis
The Reverend Gwen Senatle

Licentiates

Sister Ariel Nash

Daily Morning Prayer Call (1-605-472-5512 Access Code:772576#) …….Monday – Saturday 6:00 am

Church School.....8:45 am

Traditional Worship Service…..... 10:00 am

Contemporary Worship Service (THRIVE Next Shift)..... 2:00 pm

Big Bethel Village Worship by Phone 202-962-1123 673604#..... 3:00pm Sundays

Wednesday Virtual Bible Study (ID:941 4160 8101|Passcode:939 252| Phone +13052241968) ....12:30 pm and 6:00pm

Love Feast ..... In-person on Thursdays before Communion Sunday at 6:30pm

Holy Communion .....First Sundays

Discipleship New Members Class……Monthly Specified Saturdays -TBA

Board of Stewards…..... 1st Tuesdays 6:30 pm

Board of Trustees..... 2nd Tuesdays 7:00 pm

Baptism ..... As Announced

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS

Monday .....10:00 am—2:00 pm

Tuesday—Friday..... 10:00 am—4:30 pm

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Big Bethel Mass Choir.....Tuesdays @ 7:00pm and Saturday @ 10:00am before 1st & 3rd Sunday

Johnson-Schofield Men's Choir.....Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays before Second Sunday

Bearden-Scott Youth Choir .....2nd Saturdays before Fourth Sunday

Big Bethel Praise Ensemble.....2nd Thursdays @ 7:00 pm and Saturday before Fourth Sunday

Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Right Reverend Michael L. Mitchell, Presiding Prelate, 6th Episcopal District
Mrs. Cordelia Mitchell, Episcopal Supervisor, 6th Episcopal District
The Reverend Kimberly McMichael, Presiding Elder, North Atlanta District

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The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor

220 Auburn Avenue, NE, Atlanta, GA 30303
404.827.9707
jesus.saves@bigbethelame.org
www.bigbethelame.org

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